(b) the names of biotechnology related projects received from Assam, including various Universities of the State, the projects already sanctioned till March, 1999 and those awaiting clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA'): (a) the Department of Biotechnology is supporting approx. 500 R&D, Demonstration and application based programmes across the country at various Central and State Research Institute and Universities. The programmes are mainly in the area of Agriculture, Environment, Biodiversity, Integrated Nutrient Management, Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, Basic Research, Health Care, Human Genetics, Animal and Aquaculture, Special programme for societal benefit, Industrial Biotechnology, Human Resource Development and Bioinformatics. Some of the State are also implementing about 15 projects through their State S&T Councils mainly in the States of Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Haryana, Punjab, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu and Sikkim.

(b) In the State of Assam, in the above mentioned areas, 21 ongoing projects are being supported at different Research Institutes and Universities and 6 projects are under consideration. More details about specific projects are contained in the Annual Report of the Department.

Recruitment of Technical Officer by CSIR

1832- SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) used to recruit Technical Officer E through direct recruitment;

(b) if so, the number of Technical Officer E-l appointed through direct recruitment in each laboratory/Institute of CSIR (HQ) during 1992-99, year-wise; and

(c) if so, the qualification of the above post as per the advertisement and the qualification of the recruits in each laboratory/ Institute of CSIR, including the CSIR (HQ), during 1992-99, yearwise?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR, MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Assessment for Promotions in CSIR

1833. SHRI CO. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that assessment for promotions are not being conducted in time and even if conducted, the results are not conveyed to the assessees in time and the arrears are not paid in time in various CSIR laboratories;

(b) if so, the number of Scientific and Technical staff promoted through assessment during 1990—99 in various CSIR laboratories and the number of pending cases with each laboratory under CSIR, with details; and

(c) the reasons for delay in assessment for promotions?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.